

SQUADRONS & SHIPMATES NEWSLETTER

Hi Everyone,

FEBRUARY 28, 2010

Well I waited a week since the last newsletter and there are now more things to discuss and report to you. Again, it is all good news.

SENIOR MEMBERS

Mr. Boyd had to move over for a more senior veteran last week when Mr. Paddison joined. Well Mr. Paddison your reign only lasted 5 days. On Thursday we received word that Mr. Gilbert Thiel, who just had a birthday on January 30th is 93. I arranged a 3-way telephone conversation with our two most senior vets yesterday. They talked for a while and learned they had attended the same naval school in Chicago during World War II. Mr. Thiel joined the U.S. Navy just after Pearl Harbor was attacked. He told us he is now getting his legs in shape so he can walk around in Atlanta instead of using his wheelchair. He also plans to go to the reunion next year in San Diego. He says he now has something to look forward to. He lives in a nursing home during the week and goes home on weekends to be with his wife, Gladys, with the help of their son. We now have 3 Nonagenarians in our organization and I actually received a letter from a fourth, Mr. Allen Comstock. He thinks he is too old for our group. Wait until he finds out he has company; maybe I can change his mind.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES AND ID CARDS

During the past week we had our first two Regular Charter members become Lifetime Members. LCDR Donald Aumont, who has membership number 0 0 0 1, was the first to join and the first to go from Regular to Lifetime. Victor Zeno also became a Lifetime Member. Pete is producing new ID Cards for them. I even got a call from Mr. Boyd wanting to know how much a Lifetime Membership cost. Remember his letter back in November? I hoped I had talked him out of it until June but I think a check just may show up soon. So we may have to add another

ID Card to your load for this batch of cards.

Speaking of ID Cards, for all the new members, we have already sent out previews of the membership numbers that are being printed, which are 0 1 2 1 – 0 2 1 9. If your membership number is within this range make sure you approve your preview or your card will be printed, “as is.” If you do not receive your preview, please notify us ASAP

2010 REUNION

On Friday I signed the new hotel contracts for the new dates in August. All the old contracts have been rescinded. We must now have a good turn out so we will be given a reduced rate for the Embassy Suites in San Diego. The Embassy Suites, as I mentioned before, is the best hotel location for the Midway Museum. I was promised the block of rooms would be in the system and available by the end of the week. I will let you know when that happens. Please don't call before the block is available.

Please send in your registration forms in as soon as possible if you are planning on attending the reunion in August. We cannot wait until 90 days out, as the hotels will cancel our block of rooms. No checks will be cashed until April 15th or later, unless you want them cashed, so we don't mess up your bookkeeping. One check had to be refunded to Pat Grillo as he is attending another reunion in August for another one of his ships.

All the new plank owners from 1945 needed more time to get their affairs in order to attend the reunion in August. Some of the other members that could not attend in May are now attending in August. We want to let you know that the cancellation policy, without penalty, for the hotel is 3 days prior to arrival unlike the airlines, if you buy a non-refundable ticket, and have to cancel or change the reservations. They charge for everything these days. Therefore, we would recommend making your hotel reservations as soon as the block of rooms is available but delay making your airline reservations, if traveling by plane, until closer to the reunion in case your plans unexpectedly change.

All the information about the hotels and tours is on the web site. We need to secure buses to get to Warm Springs and the Wild Animal Safari Park and the buses hold 45-57 people depending on the size we order. The members whose registrations are received first will be put on the first bus and so on. The more people who commit to the tour, the more flexibility we will have with the bus company. Remember, there are no restrictions on the number of guests; everyone is welcome so invite your family, friends and neighbors. The Kangaroo Conservation Center is the other venue that will require bus transportation. All the other sights are within walking distance of both hotels; this will help with our expenses.

PRINTED ROSTERS

Bob Bostley has volunteered to print and mail the roster to any member, especially those who do not have a computer. The final process and format has not been yet decided. There will have to be a charge for each copy that is printed and mailed. We will keep you updated and let you know when this process is in place. I believe Bob would like to know if you are interested in receiving printed copies.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Jess Dunham has agreed to handle the Southwest portion of Florida. There are still enough members in Florida for at least 3 more state representatives. I believe this is a very vital part of our organization, meeting and exchanging ideas while making new friends at the same time.

This is all for now, more later. Thanks,

Al